

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes
9:30 AM – Senior Center
September 12, 2011

PRESENT: C. Pellegrine (Chair), K. Grunwald (staff), S. Gordon, W. Bigl, E. Poirier, Laurie McMorrow, B. Lavoie (staff), D. Nolan, A. Holinko, B. Korba, J. Terry, J. Scottron, C. Dainton (staff)
REGRETS: None

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair C. Pellegrine called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Laurie McMorrow introduced herself as a new member of the Commission. She has worked with seniors for 30 years and currently works as the Resident Services Coordinator at Juniper Hill. Bev Korba also introduced herself as a new member of the Commission. She is retired as a Director of Social Services at a nursing home. All members introduced themselves.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes of the **June 13, 2011** meeting were accepted unanimously as written.
- IV. **Correspondence – Chair and Staff:**
 - Minutes from the Committee on Committees: C. Pellegrine pointed out that the Committee approved the Commission's request to have terms commence effective September 1.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Annual Report: Accomplishments and Goals:** Members unanimously accepted the accomplishment and plans as written. J. Terry asked how these plans will be monitored. C. Pellegrine stated that it is the responsibility of all members to attend to these, realizing that some issues take time. A. Holinko added that she is aware that it is important to persist. K. Grunwald added that this can be a standing agenda item to remind members to address these issues at the monthly meetings.
 - B. **McSweeney Center Update:** K. Grunwald reported that there have been significant staffing changes related to finances at the McSweeney Senior Center. The Town has sent them a contribution for \$6500 for the dental clinic, and the plan is for the funds to be allocated monthly, with unspent funds returned to the Town. They will not be providing mobile dental services.

- C. Report of the nominating committee: W. Bigl will report under election of officers.
- D. "Other": none.

VI. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – B. Lavoie reported that the revision of "At Your Fingertips" has been completed and will be printed shortly and distributed in October. C. Pellegrine asked that Commission members be allowed to preview it before it is published. The Wellness Committee has been meeting monthly in an attempt to decide how to use the \$3000 of Association funds that have been designated for geriatric services. Some committee members thought that the money could be used to conduct a needs assessment, but the larger committee voted against doing that. The most recent decision was to solicit input from local doctors regarding senior health needs. Some residents would like to see a geriatrician available at the Senior Center. The provider would need to be prepared to do their own billing for services, as we are not licensed as a stand-alone clinic. A. Holinko suggested surveying the VNA's and homemaking providers regarding service needs. B. Korba questioned whether or not the doctors will respond to this survey? Some questions were raised about whether or not the \$3000 could be used for transportation services. This will be referred to the Association. There was also some discussion about how the Commission can help to move this issue along.

Barbara added that Senior Resources is moving their offices from Norwich to Franklin.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – C. Dainton distributed copies of monthly reports for June, July, and August. She reported that the new Tai Chi program started today and is at capacity, which will require using the dining room for the class. This means that Commission meetings will have to be moved. The hobby room is a possibility, along with space at the Town Hall. Laurie McMorroo also said that Juniper Hill is a possibility, and she will look into this. The Community Center was also suggested as an option. Thursday evening programming was successful over the summer, and this will be evaluated regarding how we will continue. Cindy provided a brief overview of the summer programs, which ranged in attendance from 12-52. This had a significant impact on staff because Friday afternoon activities continued through the summer.

Senior Center Assoc. –Marilyn Gerling was not present; no report.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee: K. Grunwald reported that Masonicare has completed the purchase of property on Maple Rd. and gave a presentation at

the Senior Center in August. They will be offering a trip to Wallingford some time this Fall.

Wrights Way: J. Adamcik reported the following: The apartments lost power for 60 hours due to storm Irene, although there was no major damage. The new ductless heating and cooling system is now working.

Juniper Hill: B. Savage was not present; no report.

Jensen's Park: E. Poirier reported that a new pool is being installed.

Glen Ridge: J. Scottron reported that there are a number of social activities that have taken place over the summer.

Other: none.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities: no report.

VII. Old Business

- A. Report of the nominating committee: election of officers: W. Bigl reported that they have recommended A. Holinko as Chair, J. Quarto as Vice-Chair, and J. Terry as Recording Secretary. The nominations were accepted unanimously by the members.
- B. Long-Range Plan: Senior Safety: "At Risk" Program: K. Grunwald reported on the Town's response to tropical storm Irene and provided information about the "At Risk" program.
- C. Triad: W. Bigl reported that the First Baptist Church of Mansfield is supporting the TRIAD program and will be instituting the Yellow Dot Program. St. Thomas Aquinas Church will be forming a committee as well. There are two Identity Theft programs that will be offered this month. Will has also started working on the issue of emergency planning and preparedness. B. Lavoie asked what the local senior residences did to assist residents who lost power during the hurricane. W. Bigl explained how residents of Jensen's assisted each other. J. Scottron reported that Glen Ridge residents assisted each other as well. Building Captains checked each building, and they are looking at purchasing a generator. L. McMorro reported that Juniper Hill was on generator power until Tuesday and did well.

VIII. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission: no comments.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM. Next meeting: **Tuesday, October 11, 2011** (due to the Columbus Day holiday) at 9:30 AM at the Mansfield Town Hall Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald

